

MILE END

## BILL CHESTER

BORN: <sup>16</sup>February 18<sup>th</sup> 1897 DIED: <sup>19</sup>March 1915, aged 36 in Bancroft Hospital leaving widow and two children.

WON: ENGLISH (BRITISH) 9 stone 2lbs (~~128 lbs~~) to 9 stone 4lbs (~~130 lbs~~) Light weight title <sup>2</sup>Oct/2<sup>nd</sup> 1899 - also claiming "WORLD'S" title at the weight with this win.

WON: ENGLISH (BRITISH) 9 stone 4lbs (~~130 lbs~~) to 9 stone 6lbs (~~132 lbs~~) Light weight title / claim <sup>4</sup>March 1901.

A terrific puncher - who was ruined by being rushed into top-class while still little more than a "novice"

Plain won, lost, drawn Record (with exhibitions) researched and compiled by

Aylesham, Kent, Boxing Historian

HAROLD ALDERMAN.

### 1898

DATE	DETAILS	FIGHT OUTCOME
Dec 13	Mick King (Aldgate) - Mile End Road - "The Peoples' Palace". First Series 8 stone 6lbs (118 lbs) "Novices" (Professionals) Competition. <i>Note: Reports give opponent as W. King.</i>	W.Ret 2 (3)
Dec 13	Jack O'Connell (Homerton) - Mile End Road - "The Peoples' Palace". Semi-final 8 stone 6lbs "Novices" (Professionals) Competition. <i>Note: Bout lasted "under two minutes".</i>	W.KO 1 (3)
Dec 13	Dick Pepper (Canning Town) - Mile End Road - "The Peoples' Palace". (Won final 8 stone 6lbs "Novices" Professionals' Competition). <i>Note: Unusual in fact that bout was stopped by order of the two judges and <u>not</u> the referee as "Pepper taking too much punishment".</i>	W. Stopped 1 (3)

### 1899

?	Willie Stone (Mile End) - London ?	W. KO 1 (6)
?	Willie Stone (Mile End) - London ? <i>Note: Not traced but Feb 27 and March 5<sup>th</sup> 1901 - "Sporting Life" pen pictures of Bill Chester lists two more bouts with Stone and gives both as 6 rounders.</i>	W. KO 3 (6)
Feb 16	George Newman (Spitalfields) - "Wonderland" - White Chapel Road	W. KO 3 (6)
Feb 20	Willie Stone (Mile End) - "Wonderland" - White Chapel Road (First Series 9 stone "Novices" competition - Harry Wright's).	W. KO 2 (3)
Feb 20	George Ware (Mile End) - "Wonderland" - White Chapel Road (semi-final - Harry Wright's 9 stone "Novice's" competition (time: just 15 seconds). <i>Note: This was <u>not</u> Ted Ware - was wrongly given in "Pen Pictures" but George Ware who was the younger brother of Ted and Harry Ware.</i>	W. KO 1 (3)
Feb 20	Jim Bateson (Peckham) - (name of "Mason" also given) - "Wonderland" - White Chapel Road. (Won final of Harry Wright's 9 stone "Novices" competition) (time: less than two minutes)	W. KO 1 (3)
Feb 23	Jack Lewis (Canning Town) (Negro) - "Wonderland" - White Chapel Road. <i>Note: Ring debut of Lewis who, like all coloured men of the time was billed as "of America" (not to be confused with the veteran coloured "American" of the same name, who was also active at the same time) - Chester had injured his right hand.</i>	W.P. 6
Mar 3	Jack Dixon (Nova Scotia, Canada) (Negro) - Covent Garden - National Sporting Club (NSC) 43 King Street. <i>Note: Dixon down in 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> - Chester down in 4<sup>th</sup>.</i>	W.P. 6
Mar 6	Jack Roberts (Drury Lane) - Covent Garden - National Sporting Club (NSC) 43 King Street. <i>Note: The much taller Chester - but a "novice" - gave an unexpected fine display in this "trial" bout and twice floored Roberts, a top-class man, in the second round - Roberts' previous week here had W. P. 20 against Frank Gess (Bristol) at 9-4. (This was <u>not</u> a six round bout).</i>	N.D. (Trial) 3
Apr 8	Mr W Long (Sydney B.C.) - Mile End - The "Ben Johnson's" School Room - Harford Street.	EXH. 3
Apr 20	Jack Dixon (Nova Scotia, Canada) (Negro) - The Strand, New Adelphia Club, Maiden Lane. <i>Note: Dixon floored in 4<sup>th</sup> - "threw" Chester down in 5<sup>th</sup>.</i>	W. RSF 5 (6)

May 15	George Cunningham (Shoreditch) - National Sporting Club (NSC) 43 King Street.	W. Disq. 5 (6) "Holding"
May 20	Joe Anderson (Spitalfields) - Dartford, Kent - Conservative Club	EXH. 3
Oct 2	Ted Marlow (Stratford) - National Sporting Club (NSC) 43 King Street. <i>Note: Given as "World's" as well as "English (British)" 9 stone 2lbs (128 lbs) to 9 stone 4lbs (130 lbs) title billing - (with Marlow as "holder") for £300 (£100 a side and £100 purse). Lasted 72 seconds. Marlow being floored three times prior to "K.O.". Chester backed and trained by Joe Smith - at the Alexandra Hotel, Sandgate, Nr Folkestone, Kent.</i>	W. KO 1(20)
Oct 4	Joe Anderson (Spitalfields) - Mile End - "The Paragon Music Hall".	EXH. 3

#### 1900

Feb 26	Tommy Hogan (Pittsburg, Pensilvania) - National Sporting Club (NSC) 43 King Street. Billed as "World's" 9 stone (126 lbs) to 9 stone 2 lbs (128 lbs) title. <i>Note: Mens' given weights vary from 9-2 for both to 8-12 for Hogan. Chester stated to have broken small bone in his arm during bout.</i>	L. KO 8 (15)
Mar 1	Bill Chester is still "World's" and "English (British)" 9 stone 2 lbs to 9 stone 4 lbs limit Champion as Hogan bout was at 9 stone 2 lbs limit.	
Apr 12	Mr Tom Housego (Paddington) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road.	EXH. 3
Apr 28	Joe Anderson (Spitalfields) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road.	EXH. 3
May 5	Matt Palmer (Canning Town) - National Sporting Club (NSC) 43 King Street.	EXH. 3
Jun 2	George Cunningham (Shoreditch) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road. Billed as for "English (British) 9-2 to 9-4 (limit) titles and "Gold and Silver" Wonderland Championship belt" but <u>disqualified</u> as title bout by being only <u>two</u> minute rounds instead of three.	L.P. 15 2 (15)
Jun 30	Tom Ireland (Mile End) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road.	"No Dec" 4
Jul 7	Tom Ireland (Mile End) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road.	EXH. 3
Jul 14	Tom Ireland (Mile End) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road.	"No Dec" 4
Jul 28	Ted Ware (Mile End) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road.	EXH. 3
Aug 18	Ted Ware (Mile End) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road.	"No Dec" 4
Oct 18	Billy Gordon (Boston, Mass.) - (Negro) - National Sporting Club (NSC) 43 King Street.	EXH. 3
Oct 22	Jack Fowler (Bethnal Green) - Shoreditch - Town Hall.	EXH. 3
Dec 17	Owen Sweeney (Fulham) - National Sporting Club (NSC) 43 King Street.	EXH. 3

#### 1901

Jan 1	Bill Nolan (Drury Lane) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road. <i>Note: Nolan, down twice and "saved by the bell" but retired at interval.</i>	W. Ret. 1 (10)
Mar 4	Bill Wood (Clapton) - National Sporting Club (NSC) 43 King Street. At 9 stone 6 lbs (limit) for £200 - no title billing but Chester based a claim to English (British) 9 stone 4 lbs to 9 stone 6lbs (limit) title on this win. Both men 9 stone 5 lbs. Time 2 mins. 10 secs. (including count).	W. KO 1 (15)
May 9	Ted Ware (Mile End) - Mile End - Fordstones Palace of Varieties.	EXH. 3
Jul 13	Tom Ireland (Mile End) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road. <i>Note: Ireland down in 2<sup>nd</sup> then disqualified in 3<sup>rd</sup> for "low blow".</i>	W. Disq. 3 (6)
Jul 20	"Kid" Le Grange (Chicago, Illin.) - (Negro) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road. <i>Note: Le Grange 1 stone (14lbs) heavier - Chester "English (British) 9 stone 6 lbs (limit) Champion".</i>	No Dec. 4
Oct 14	Jim Maloney (Hackney) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road. <i>Note: Maloney a substitute for Mark Jacobs down to meet Chester in a ten-round contest.</i>	No Dec. (Trial) 4
Oct 28	"Sporting Life" called Chester "English (British) 9 stone 6 lbs to 9 stone 8 lbs (limit) Champion".	

#### 1902

Apr 21	Jabez White (Birmingham) - National Sporting Club (NSC) 43 King Street. At 9 stone 8 lbs for £100 a side and £100 purse (total £300) widely regarded as for English (British) 9 stone 8 lbs (limit) title although <u>not</u> over a normally recognised title distance, being only ten rounds and <u>not</u> billed as title bout in "Sporting Life" report.	L. K.O. 6 (10)
Aug 25	Bob Russell (Limehouse) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road. Advertised as for English (British) 9 stone 8 lbs (limit) title - changed from original articles which were at 9 stone 4 lbs to 9 stone 6 lbs (limit) but not reported or recognised as a title bout as not over a recognised title distance. What really disqualified it as a title bout was fact the it was only over two minute rounds as were majority of bouts at this venue.	W.P. 10 (20)
Oct 9	Jim Maloney (Hackney) - 241 Marylebone Road. Advertised as for English (British) 9 stone 8lbs to 9 stone 10 lbs limit) title and £150, £50 a side and £50 purse which was not large enough for a major title bout at this poundage, £200 being the accepted amount. What really disqualified it as a title bout was that it was only over two minute rounds.	(Low blow) W. Disq. 13 (20)

Dec 11	(William) "Spike" Sullivan (Boston, Mass. - born County Cork) - The Strand - Adelphi Club, Maiden Lane. <i>Note: At 9 stone 10 lbs (limit) for £165 (£50 a side and £65 purse) 1 p.m. weigh-in, "both inside" but no weights given. No title billing (monetary reward <u>not</u> high enough in any case for a major title bout under rules of the day.</i>	
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#### 1903

Mar 28	Jim Maloney (Hackney) - Woolwich - Beresford Street Drill Hall.	W.P. 6
Apr 11	Jack Goldswain (Bermondsey) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road.	Drew 6.
Apr 28	Matt Palmer (Canning Town) - Bow - Bow & Bromley A.C. H.Q., Ford Street.	EXH. 3
May 6	Matt Palmer (Canning Town) - Bow - Bow & Bromley A.C. H.Q., Ford Street.	EXH. 3
?	Jim Maloney (Hackney) ? <i>Note: Not traced - claimed in June 24 "Mirror of Life". No venue or year given.</i>	Drew 6
Oct 12	George Cunningham (Shoreditch) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road.	W.P. 6
Nov 16	Jabez White (Birmingham) - Birmingham - The Curzon Hall.	EXH. 4

#### 1904

Feb 15	Jim Hook (Billingsgate) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road. <i>Note: Originally billed as for "World's" 10 stone (140 lbs) "Light-weight" title</i>	W.P. 12
July 23	Bobby Dobbs (Local-born, Kentucky, USA) (Negro) - Newcastle-upon-Tyne - Ginnetts Circus. <i>Note: Originally billed as for "World's" 10 stone (140 lbs) "Light-weight" title but Dobbs 4 lbs over weight at 10.4 lbs to Chester (9-13) so bout went on at "catchweights" for the £100 purse only side stake being dropped.</i>	W. K.O. 2 (15)

#### 1905

Nov 15	Bobby Dobbs (Now Swansea - born Kentucky, USA) (Negro) - Cardiff, the Queens Hall. <i>Note: At catchweights for £50 purse. Dobbs aged 46.</i>	L. KO 2 (10)
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#### 1906

Jan 25	"Sporting Life" - Bill Chester has of late been travelling with "Professor" Moore's Booth. Now in Paisley, Scotland and matched with Tom Edmonds (Birmingham) at Birmingham for Feb. 19.	
Feb 19	Tom Edmonds (Birmingham) - Birmingham, Warwickshire Horse Repository, Hill Street. <i>Note: At catchweights - Chester down in 8<sup>th</sup> ("left to jaw"). Injured thumb going down and retired in interval.</i>	L. Ret. 8 (15) (Injured hand)
May 12	Joe Fletcher (Camberwell) - - Wonderland - White Chapel Road.	L.P. 6
Nov 17	George Cunningham (Shoreditch) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road.	L.P. 6

#### 1907

?	Jack Turner (Glasgow) - ? <i>Note: Not traced but claimed by Turner Aug 8<sup>th</sup> 1908 in "Sporting Life" - no year or venue given.</i>	Drew.
Dec 28	Dick Lee (Kentish Town) - Wonderland - White Chapel Road. <i>Note: Report states Chester proved he can "still hold his own in top class".</i>	Drew 6.

#### 1908

Dec 21	Tom Edmonds (Birmingham) - Birmingham - Curzon Hall  Last bout traced for Bill Chester.	L. 8 (20)
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AND JAN 20 SEEN AT THE HAYES (HAYES) - WONDERLAND & WHITE CHAPEL ROAD - W.P. 6 - IN HAYES - 1907 W.S.C.